

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRANCH INC.

Newsletter #197 - mostly about us with a sprinkling of NSA news

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NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 9 April at Kalamunda CoC Centre, 22 Mileti Road Lesmurdie

GUEST SPEAKER – Pamela Lee, National Stroke Foundation: What stroke is and how to recognize the signs; what to do in the event of someone having a stroke.

Well done, well done to all those 127 members and 7 visitors who pushed the meeting attendance to a record 134 enthusiastic people. It really was an excellent response to what many regard as the highlight of their month and I counted eleven (11) foundation members in the audience. They are: John Lathwell, Pat D'Adhemar, Sandra Walker, Dave Buttress, Sheila Jackson, Norman Campbell, Nora Stubbs, Peter & Dorothy Good, Elaine Turnbull and me. It's interesting to note that many of our visitors come due to encouragement from friends whilst others come because of what they read in the local newspaper or hear on *Curtin Radio*. Whatever the reason, they are very likely to find at least one familiar face in the crowd and that helps to make their visit more enjoyable; a factor which can stimulate a desire to return. Another factor being, that because we draw from a well defined catchment area within the Kalamunda district, the chances of people being involved in a cross section of community based activities makes it more likely for them to find a friendly face when they come to us on the second Tuesday of the month.

March Visitors

Chris Bloomer
Margaret Brodie
Rita Cairns (from
Victoria visiting her
sister Sandra Walker)
Kath Drew
Jenny Harapeet
Jan Tree
Jana Woods

Sun, Sea, and Sociability – For those who missed out on the excursion to *Sculptures by the Sea* (possibly the last one) then dare I say that you missed something special. The coach trip going down took us through areas of interest (not visible through a car window) and along the beaches to the south of Cottesloe. The sculptures were truly amazing (as usual)

although one often needed a good imagination to appreciate the artist's creation; which at times seemed at odds with its label. It was hard to separate the best from the rest but the galvanized roof sitting on the sand had me intrigued and I wondered whether the rest of the building was buried below! "*Thoughts of Pinocchio*" was another that caught my eye with a price tag of \$68 000, a real bargain for those with a penchant for long noses. No doubt, the figures standing on the end of his proboscis are meaningful for the artist but lost to my non-artistic intellect.

I must also say that the Albion Hotel on Stirling Highway (formerly Perth Fremantle Road when the Albion was built in 1911) is an excellent venue for meals if you happen to be passing at an appropriate time. Suffice to say that the day was excellent in all ways and congratulations to Les for making it happen.

The case of the missing collection buckets – Pastor Steve was in a real predicament the day after our March meeting because the Church *Collection Buckets* had gone missing and the finger of suspicion was pointing (in a nice sort of way) directly at us. The reason being (as I later found out) that they had been placed on a table just inside the auditorium after the Sunday service. By now you may have guessed the table on which they had been placed and if you guessed rightly; it was indeed the *Freebie* table. So, I sent out a plea to all those with an email address (of which we are privileged to know!) asking if anyone had inadvertently taken home something white and looking like a flower pot. Thank goodness that two ladies rang to say that they were in possession of same because they (rightly so) thought they were placed there for the taking. All's well that ends well; Pastor Steve is happy, I'm happy and the two ladies concerned (although a little thwarted) are also happy that the mystery of the missing Collection Buckets was solved so speedily through their own admission..



National Seniors Submission (in part) – Implications of removing refundable franking credits

“While many would see self-funded retirees as “undeserving” of support, it is important to recognise this is not a homogenous group. Some self-funded retirees are subsisting on relatively low-incomes with limited access to financial support in the form of subsidised health care or concessions on essential services. Many feel they are being penalised for doing the right thing by saving for their retirement and not being a burden on the taxpayer by relying on the age pension.

In this regard, National Seniors urges the federal Opposition to reconsider its proposed policy to scrap refundable franking credits. We are not opposed to fair and considered reform to the retirement income system. However, we believe the proposed changes will severely impact on lower income self-funded retirees who have worked hard and planned their retirement within the prevailing rules.”

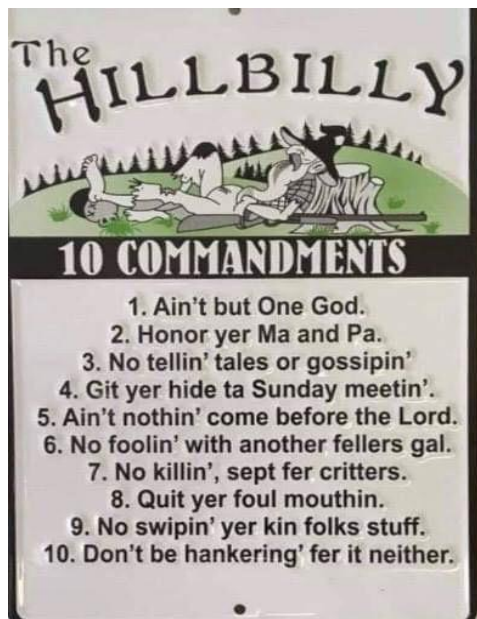
Need a name bar? – These are important in the social scheme of things because it's good to know who you are talking to without having to mumble something quite indecipherable. The cost is \$8 and if you see me with the money in hand I will arrange it. A few years ago a lady ordered a badge without first paying and then stopped coming to meetings. When I rang her she said *“Oh, can't you give it to someone else;”* I said sorry lady but we don't have anyone else by that name – dead silence at the other end before she hung up.

Federal Election 2019 – Policy priorities of older Australians with National Seniors fighting for a better deal (a brief synopsis of salient points)

National Seniors is calling for an Independent Age Pension Tribunal to take the politics out of the pension and for increased financial assistance for older people to access the rental market, the NBN and dental care.

We are calling for spiraling out-of-pocket health care costs to be curtailed through greater transparency of specialist fees and by limiting increases to private health insurance premiums.

National Seniors is also calling for swift action to address the crisis in aged care by tripling level 3 and 4 home care packages to eliminate waiting lists, mandating publication of staffing levels in residential care and making dementia training mandatory for all people in direct aged care roles.



Hard copy hand-outs – I will have copies of the Federal Election Policy Priorities at the April meeting. Members with an email address will receive a scanned copy prior to the meeting. I also have a quantity of glossy literature which Sandra Philpott brought with her to recent meetings in Perth, which by the way was hugely successful. Sandra emphasized the fact that WA, per head of population, has the strongest branch membership of other states, apart from Queensland where National Seniors began 40 odd years ago. There's no doubt that Kalamunda Districts Branch is doing its bit towards bolstering this statistic and I don't believe we've stopped growing yet!

The last word – Ken Wyatt MP will be visiting us at the next meeting with an overview of seniors' matters associated with his portfolio. Ken will speak for 20 minutes in the first half of the meeting and will stay for morning tea.

Keep smiling and keep well

Graeme 😊

SOCIAL CORNER

Event – Perth Zoo

Date – Wednesday 24 April

Cost - \$45 per person

Depart – Thai on the Hill at 9.00am

Your choice of lunch venue; heaps to choose from and the bus will drop off and collect us at a central point.

Event – Optus Stadium Tour

Date – Wednesday 22 May

Cost – \$45 per person

Lunch at Royal Hotel Claisebrook; own choice \$16 to \$25

Depart – Thai on the Hill 9.00am

Remember to have the correct money when registering for events

CARPE DIEM